

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20 (Canceled)

21. (New) An isolated binding compound that specifically binds a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.

22. (New) The binding compound of claim 21 that is an antibody.

23. (New) The binding compound of claim 21 that is a monoclonal antibody.

24. (New) The binding compound of claim 21 that is an Fv, Fab, or F(ab)₂ fragment.

25. (New) The binding compound of claim 21 that is a humanized or chimeric antibody.

26. (New) The binding compound of claim 21 that is polyclonal.

27. (New) The binding compound of claim 21 that is a neutralizing antibody.

28. (New) The binding compound of claim 21 that binds the polypeptide with a K_D of 10μM or less.

29. (New) The binding compound of claim 21 that comprises a detectable label.

30. (New) The binding compound of claim 29 wherein the detectable label is selected from the group consisting of radionuclides, enzymes, substrates, cofactors, inhibitors, fluorescent moieties, chemiluminescent moieties, and magnetic particles.

31. (New) The binding compound of claim 21 that is raised against a purified or recombinantly produced polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.
32. (New) The binding compound of claim 21 that is raised against an antigen comprising at least 8 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.
33. (New) The binding compound of claim 21 that is raised against an antigen comprising at least 12 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.
34. (New) The binding compound of claim 21 that is raised against an antigen comprising at least 17 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.
35. (New) The binding compound of claim 32 wherein the antigen comprises the at least 8 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4 conjugated to an immunogenic protein.
36. (New) A detection kit comprising the binding compound of claim 21 and
 - a) instruction material instructing the use of the binding compound for detection; or
 - b) a compartment for storage of the binding compound.
37. (New) The detection kit of claim 36 wherein the binding compound comprises a detectable label.
38. (New) The detection kit of claim 37 wherein the detectable label is selected from the group consisting of radionuclides, enzymes, substrates, cofactors, inhibitors, fluorescent moieties, chemiluminescent moieties, and magnetic particles.

39. (New) The detection kit of claim 36 wherein the detection is performed by using a radioimmunoassay (RIA), enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), enzyme immunoassay (EIA), enzyme-multiplied immunoassay technique (EMIT), or substrate-labeled fluorescent immunoassay (SLFIA).

40. (New) The detection kit of claim 36 further comprising a means for separating bound binding compounds from free binding compounds.